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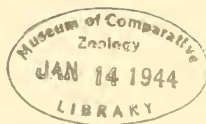
A NEW SNAKE OF THE GENUS *SONORA* FROM LOWER CALIFORNIA, MEXICO

BY

LAURENCE M. KLAUBER

Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians, San Diego Society of Natural History

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Some time ago I received from Mrs. Griffing Bancroft a *Sonora* of the *semiannulata* group, which, as far as I know, is the first specimen of this group to have been taken on the Pacific side of the mountains on the peninsula of Lower California. Since this snake differs from the known members of the genus, I take pleasure in naming it after Mrs. Bancroft, a friend of more than forty years, who, with her husband, has been the source of many fine reptile specimens collected in the course of their oölogical and archaeological expeditions to Lower California, Sonora, and the islands of the Gulf of California.

Sonora bancroftae sp. nov.

Type.—No. 35,077 in the collection of LMK, collected two miles east of San Jorge,¹ Lower California, Mexico, by Mrs. Griffing Bancroft, April 10, 1942.

Diagnosis.—A *Sonora* of the rounded-snout group, differing from *mosaui* of the middle of the peninsula in having cross bands, whereas *mosaui* is unicolor; also, *bancroftae* has more ventrals and subcaudals. From *semiannulata* it differs in the color of both the background and bands.

Description of the Type.—A female; length over-all 194 mm.; tail length 36 mm. The scale rows are 15-15-14; the dorsal scales are smooth, and with single apical pits. The ventrals number 171 and the subcaudals 47; the latter are divided, as is also the anal. The supralabials are 7-7, infralabials 8-8, loreals probably² 1-1, preoculars probably 1-1, postoculars 2-2, temporals 1+2, 1+2.

¹San Jorge is in the valley of the San Telmo River about twenty miles above its mouth. It will be found on the American Geographical Society map of Baja California—Norte, Provisional Edition, 1928, a few miles northeast of the intersection of Lat. 31° N. and Long. 116° W.

²The type specimen died from an injury incident to its capture a day or so before it reached me, in consequence of which the head is rather shrunken anteriorly.

The scale rows were counted at the points recommended by Stickel in his summary of the genus.³

The pattern comprises a series of evenly-edged gray cross bands (34 on the body, 8 on the tail) on a light-brown ground. The ground color (as preserved in alcohol) is Orange-Cinnamon.⁴ The cross bands are Deep Neutral Gray. Below the color is Pinkish Buff. The dark bands are usually wider than the interspaces; they are from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ scales (end to end) wide, while the spaces between are 2 to 3. The gray color comprises many fine punctations, the ground color showing through to some extent. The gray bands fade out as they reach the lowest lateral scale rows; however, they do not narrow laterally as is usual in *S. s. semiannulata*, nor are the interspaces clouded with dark spots laterally as is often the case in the latter subspecies. All dorsal scales are somewhat lighter on the edges than in the centers. The ventrum is immaculate buff.

The top of the head is dark. There is a narrow light crescent which engages the eyes; behind this on the neck is the first dark ring, which likewise is crescent-shaped.

Remarks.—The species is known only from the type. It was captured when a rock was overturned in seeking a missile to throw at a red diamond rattler. There was a second specimen under the stone, but it was not collected.

This species is most closely related to *S. s. semiannulata*, with which it may eventually be shown to intergrade, although, as far as I know, no *semiannulata* has yet been collected in Lower California. The differences between *bancroftae* and *semiannulata* are primarily in pattern. The yellow-brown ground color in *bancroftae* is not like the cream or red suffusions between the dark rings usually observed in live *semiannulata*, but supplants the true white ground color of the latter. The gray rings in *bancroftae* are relatively wider and closer together than the black rings of *semiannulata* and do not taper laterally as is the case in the Arizona snakes.

³William H. Stickel: The Snakes of the Genus *Sonora* in the United States and Lower California. Copeia, No. 4, pp. 182-190, 1938.

⁴Capitalized colors are those of Ridgway: Color Standards and Color Nomenclature, 1912.



A DESERT SUBSPECIES OF THE SNAKE *TANTILLA EISENI*

BY

LAURENCE M. KLAUBER

Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians, San Diego Society of Natural History

The California Black-headed Snake, *Tantilla eiseni* Stejneger, 1896, is found from southeastern Alameda County and Fresno south to San Quintín, northern Lower California. Of this species I have accumulated a moderately adequate series from San Diego County. Among these are six from the desert side of the mountains, which are sufficiently different from those on the coastal slope to warrant segregation as a separate subspecies. I therefore describe this as

Tantilla eiseni transmontana subsp. nov.

DESERT BLACK-HEADED SNAKE

Type.—No. 29,273 in the collection of LMK, collected on the road one mile east of Yaqui Well, San Diego County, California, by Charles E. Shaw and Cyrus S. Perkins, June 6, 1938, at 8:10 P. M. Five paratypes are available from San Diego County and one from Riverside County.

Diagnosis.—A desert slope subspecies of *Tantilla eiseni* characterized by a higher number of ventral scutes, a shorter tail, and lighter color than the cismontane form. *T. e. transmontana* has a higher ventral scale count than any other known *Tantilla*.

Description of the Type.—Adult male. Length over-all (before shrinkage in preservative) 302 mm.; tail length 70 mm. The scale rows are 15-15-15; all scales are smooth. The ventrals are 182; anal divided; there are 68 subcaudals, all divided. The plates on top of the head are normal. The nasals are divided; there are no loreals. The supralabials are 7-7, and the infralabials 6-6. The preoculars are 1-1; postoculars 2-2. The temporals are 1+1, 1+1.

The following color description refers to the specimen as preserved in alcohol: The top of the head is purplish-black, although the rostral and internasals are lighter. On the sides the dark color touches only the tops of the supralabials, except posteriorly where an extension of the dark area is carried down across the last supralabial to a point behind and below the angle

of the mouth. The dark color on top of the head reaches a distance two scales behind the parietals. Here there is a transverse band very slightly lighter than the ground color, no doubt the vestige of the usual *Tantilla* ring. On the under surface of the head there are some faint punctations on the edges of the infralabials; the third and fourth infralabials are heavily punctated where they abut the genials. The body is cream-colored throughout, both dorsally and ventrally. Fine brown punctations are faintly in evidence on the seven mid-dorsal scale rows. A dark streak of the vertebral process shows through the skin; there is a rather marked mid-dorsal groove.

Summary of Paratypes.—Six paratypes are available, the data on them being as follows:

			Sex	Ventrals	Sub-caudals	Supra-labials	Infra-labials
LMK 2633	Yaqui Well	M	175	62	6-7	7-7	
LMK 2634	Yaqui Well	M	184	65	7-7	6-6	
LMK 32419	Sentenac Canyon	F	197	63	7-7	6-6	
LMK 33760	Palm Springs	F	195	66	7-7	6-6	
LMK 33997	Sentenac Canyon	F	—	—	7-7	7-7	
SDSNH 11260	La Puerta	F	190	60	7-7	7-7	

All localities are in transmontane San Diego County except Palm Springs, which is in Riverside County. All specimens have 15 scale rows, one preocular, two postoculars, and 1+1 temporals. None has loreals.

In these paratypes there is some variation in the amount and extent of dorsal pigment. The pigmented dorsal scale rows vary from 7 to 13, the punctations being most in evidence mid-dorsally. The punctations are light and scattered; they are darkest in the Palm Springs specimen, which is the only one that approaches, in depth of color, the lightest of the coastal snakes. The black of the heads continues from two to three scale lengths posterior to the parietals, and is carried back of and below the angle of the mouth, as Blanchard discovered is characteristic of *eiseni* and differentiates this form from *utahensis* (Blanchard, 1938). The light neck ring is more or less in evidence, depending on the extent of the dorsal punctations. Only in the Palm Springs specimen are there black dots posterior to the light ring.

Range.—No definite localities of this subspecies are known except those where the type and paratypes were collected. Eventually it will no doubt be found along the desert base of the mountains from San Geronio Pass in Riverside County southeastward well into Lower California. While *transmontana* may occur along the eastern base of the San Bernardino Mountains and in the Little San Bernardinos, it has not been collected in either. Further north we may expect to find *utahensis*; at least such is the case in the Panamints and in the Kingston Range. Without doubt *eiseni* and *transmontana* intergrade through San Geronio Pass in Riverside County and via some of the San Diego County passes. Three specimens from Snow Creek, on the north slope of Mt. San Jacinto, Riverside County, are considered intergrades, as they show characters of both subspecies.

Remarks.—*Transmontana* has more ventral scutes and is a lighter colored snake than *eiseni*. The change in color is produced both by there being fewer